Teesta Canal Fall Hydro-electric Project

*290. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 682 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 1986 and state the stage at which the Teesta Canal Fall Hydro-electric Project (67.5 MW) sets at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Infrastructural works on the project are in progress and the irrigation canal is under construction. The project authorities have invited tenders for the power genertaing units, electrically operated travelling crane, and 6.6 KV switchgear.

Exploration of Oil and Gas

*291. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for foreign assistance for intensification of off-shore and on-shore exploration of oil and gas are under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) In order to supplement the efforts of the two national Oil Companies, ONGC & OIL, bids were invited by Government from experienced international companies to explore for oil and natural gas in 27 blocks in off-shore areas of India. In response to this, twelve bids covering nine blocks have been received from seven foreign oil companies as under:—

S. No.	Companies	No. of bids	Blocks
1	Albion International Resources Inc., USA	Two	Krishna-Godavari-VII Cauvery-V
2	Shell International Petroleum, Netherlands	Two	Konkan-Kerala-II & IV
3	Chevron-Texaco, USA	Three	Krishna-Godavari-I & VII palar-II
4	Britoil U.K.	One	Krishna-Godavari-I
5	International Pertroleum Corpn., Dubai	One	Krishna-Godavari-IV
6	AMOCO, U.S.A.	One	Krishna-Godavari-V
7	B.H.P., Australia	Two	Konkan-Kerala-VI Krishna-Godavari-I

Negotiations with the bidders are in progress.

In addition to this, V/O Technoexport of the USSR is carrying out intensive integrated exploration of hydro-carbons in the North Cambay and Cauvery on shore basins on turnkey basis under inter-governmental agreements of May 22, 1985. In pursuance of yet another agreement of November 27, 1986, ONGC has

signed a general agreement with V/O Technoexport to start a third project of intensive integrated exploration programme in a mutually agreed area in West Bengal on shore.

The Soviet Union has extended long term credits for the execution of these projects.

Reform in Electoral System

*292. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which Government have stated in Rajya Sabha that they would consult political parties before deciding about electoral reforms; and

(b) the date on which a former Law Minister, Shri Govinda Menon had stated in Parliament that Government were agreeable to the formation of a Speaker's Committee to examine the question of reforms in the electoral system?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(b) 18th March, 1969.

Statement

The dates on which the Rajya Sabha had been informed in the current year (till 10th August, 1987) in reply to Questions that Government would hold consultations with the political parties on the proposals for electoral reforms are as under:—

2.3.1987	9.3.1987
13.4.1987	20.4.1987
27.4.1987	4.5.1987
27.7.1987	3.8.1987

Power shortage in the Country

*293. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) which of the States are deficit in power supply this year and which of them suffer from deficit of more than 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the demand;

(b) what special steps have been taken with regard to these heavily deficit States and with what outcome;

(c) whether it is a fact that the country-wise power deficit has been increasing during each of the last three years;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what are Government's plan to wipe out the deficit and make the country surplus in power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The information required is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(b) To mitigate the power shortage in the States, assistance is provided from Central stations and neighbouring systems to the extent possible.

(c) and (d) Power generation in the country increased from 156.6 billion units in 1984-85 to 187.6 billion units in 1986-87. On account of the demand for power outstripping the increase in availability, the shortage of power in 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 was 6.7 per cent, 7.9 per cent and 9.4 per cent respectively.

(e) The measures taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of additional